



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# TOM CAMPBELL

*(R) 2nd Legislative District*



## 2004 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### CONTROLLING TAXES AND MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR YOU!

*Serving the citizens of  
Graham, Spanaway, Roy,  
McKenna, Eatonville, Orting,  
Puyallup's South Hill,  
Yelm and Rainier*

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**HOUSE COMMITTEE  
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Transportation  
Health Care  
Judiciary  
Joint Select Committee on  
Military and Veteran's Affairs

Dear Friends,

The state Legislature began its 60-day session in mid-January. We already are deeply involved in addressing important issues that in one way or another affect every resident of our legislative district and state. I'm continuing to work to hold the line on taxes, make government leaner, improve the health of our economy and retain and creating jobs.

But this session I am particularly concerned about how the Legislature will address things like better access to health care, proposed changes to our civil justice system and replacing our state's primary voting process. Many citizens have lost faith in the ability of their government to get things right, and with good reason – so we really need to reach the right decisions on fundamental issues like these.

As we debate proposals, I want to be able to give my fellow representatives a clear picture of how 2nd District residents feel. Please help me by answering the handful of questions inside and mailing them in as soon as you can. I've also included an update on other topics of interest to our communities.

Your input on any issues before the Legislature is always welcome. Call me using the toll-free legislative hotline, send e-mails, write letters, or stop in for a visit if you are in the Olympia area. I also invite you to attend one of our Town Hall meetings in the district February 21 and February 28. Your government works better when you're involved!

After this session ends I will provide a report on what happened concerning these issues, your preferences and how I voted.

It is a pleasure and honor to serve as your representative.

Sincerely,

## FUNDING FOR THE YELM ALTERNATE LOOP:

The 2nd Legislative District is home to some of the fastest-growing areas in Pierce and Thurston counties. For years I have worked to improve highways and roads in the Pierce County part of the district to support all the growth, and succeeded in obtaining funding for crucial projects like Meridian Road expansion and the Cross-Base Highway.

The northern portion of Thurston County is in the 2nd District now, including Yelm, the county's fastest-growing city. As representative for the people of the Yelm Prairie, I'm committed to landing **initial state funding for the area's most important congestion-relief project: the State Route 510/507 Loop**, which would give drivers an alternate route.

The fact that the SR 510/507 corridor is the only alternative north-south corridor for Interstate 5 around Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base makes this a project with regional significance.

The first phase of the project is the northern portion of the Loop, a 4-mile, three-lane highway (one through lane each way, with a left turn lane where needed, and a separate bike/pedestrian pathway) with a 45-mph speed limit. The first step of that phase is preliminary engineering and right-of-way acquisition.

My first priority toward this project is to obtain \$1 million for the city of Yelm and the Thurston Regional Planning Council to start buying the necessary property and act as seed money to match other funding.

As a member of the House Transportation Committee, I've conveyed the urgency of Yelm's situation to the committee chairman. And as someone who's driven to and through Yelm frequently for years (daily on my way to Olympia for legislative sessions) I can explain exactly how the SR 510/507 Loop would address the area's needs.

People keep coming to this area because it's a great place to live and work. I will do my utmost to secure the state funding needed to get the Loop project moving.

## MERIDIAN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS MUST STAY ON TRACK:

The passage of Initiative 776 (\$30 license tabs) reduced funding for transportation projects. In response, the state Transportation Commission wants to put the brakes on about \$40 million worth of transportation projects around the state, including the widening of Meridian Road (SR 161) planned this year. It would be postponed until 2005.

**This is unacceptable!** The people who rely on Meridian Road have waited a long time for this project, and should not have to wait any longer. The project is critical to improving safety, reducing commute times and fuel consumption, reducing air pollution, and improving the health of nearby streams and wetlands.

I am committed to getting these critical highway improvements back on schedule and look forward to the day when the Transportation Commission – a group of political appointees that has outlived its purpose – is eliminated. Decisions like this should be made strictly by people who are elected and accountable to you.

## MILITARY BASES: KEEP THEM OPEN!

Washington's nine military bases – the jewels being Fort Lewis and McChord AFB, in our legislative district – are vital to our national security and our state economy. The Pentagon has closed 451 military installations in the past 15 years, and the next round of closures will be announced in 2005. **I don't want any Washington bases to be on the list.**

As a member of the Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs, I've been working for months toward making the strongest possible case to the Pentagon on behalf of our state's military installations. In fact, we are teaming with the state's economic development agency to develop a proposal similar to the one Washington submitted to Boeing last year during the competition for the 7E7 jetliner project. We simply can't let allow any of our bases to close.

## LIMIT LOBBYING BY FORMER POLICYMAKERS:

People who leave their seats in the United States Congress must wait a year before they can lobby in Congress. Our state needs a rule like that. It just doesn't seem right that someone who develops government policies can resign or retire one day and start working as a lobbyist the next – especially if they're lobbying on the same issues for which they were making policy. I've introduced House Bill 3048 that would require a break between state employment and lobbying, and do away with one of the practices that can only hurt public trust.

# 2004 LEGISLATIVE QUESTIONNAIRE



Government works best when people actively participate. Your responses to these questions will help me better represent your views when voting on important legislation.

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Rank from 1 to 10 (1 being most important) the issues which are of greatest importance to you.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> economy and jobs   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> no new taxes   | <input type="checkbox"/> environment           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> crime  | <input type="checkbox"/> social services       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> education  | <input type="checkbox"/> primary voting system |
| <input type="checkbox"/> effect of medical malpractice insurance costs on access to health care |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____   |  |

## TAXES AND SPENDING

Washington’s Constitution requires a 60 percent yes vote – also known as a “supermajority” – to pass public school district levies and bond issues. Educators want to lower the threshold for approval to a “simple majority,” which is 50 percent + one vote. They believe it would make education funding more stable. Because it would mean amending the Constitution, this proposed change would have to go to a vote of the people if the Legislature approves it. What would you prefer?

- ☐ Keep the supermajority requirement for bond issues and levies
- ☐ Change the Constitution to allow the simple majority for bonds and levies.
- ☐ Keep the supermajority for bonds; allow the simple majority for levies.

Lawmakers are looking at several options to help economic recovery and job creation. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with these options.

- |                                      |                          |       |                          |          |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|----------|
| Increase small business tax credits  | <input type="checkbox"/> | agree | <input type="checkbox"/> | disagree |
| Freeze the state’s minimum wage      | <input type="checkbox"/> | agree | <input type="checkbox"/> | disagree |
| Extend existing business tax credits | <input type="checkbox"/> | agree | <input type="checkbox"/> | disagree |
| Reduce regulatory red tape           | <input type="checkbox"/> | agree | <input type="checkbox"/> | disagree |

## REPLACING THE PRIMARY VOTING SYSTEM

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals recently ruled against Washington’s popular 68-year-old blanket primary, in which voters are free to vote for one candidate from any party in each race. The ruling has been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Out of concern that the Supreme Court may not issue a ruling, or will rule the blanket primary unconstitutional, before September, the Legislature may be forced to adopt an alternative. Please tell me which of these appeals most to you:

A “closed primary” which allows only voters who are on record as registered members of political parties to participate in nominating their parties’ candidates to the general election ballot, either through a primary election or precinct/district caucuses. Voters not registered with a political party would vote for state offices only in the November election. Parties, not taxpayers, would be required to pay the costs of their nominating processes.

An “open primary, secret choice” election in which voters privately choose a major party’s ballot before they cast their vote; their choice of ballot is not recorded. Under this system, there is no party registration. This system requires voters to choose one party to affiliate with, but only for the moment they are voting. This

(Continued page 4)

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**TOM CAMPBELL**  
REPRESENTATIVE



Please  
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# REP. TOM CAMPBELL • SERVING THE 2ND DISTRICT

system ensures that one candidate from each major party advances to the general election. This system respects a voter's privacy, but limits his or her choices to one party.

\_\_\_\_\_ A **"modified blanket primary"** in which the top two vote getters in a primary move to the general election ballot regardless of party affiliation. Under this primary system, the ballots contain candidates from all parties. Voters can vote for candidates of any party for each office. Ballots are secret and no record of the voter's choice can be recorded. This system most closely resembles our current primary in offering wide choice, but it would be possible for two Republicans or two Democrats, or an independent, to wind up in a general election.

\_\_\_\_\_ A **"ranked voting"** system that requires no primary and has all candidates listed on the November ballot. Voters rank their choices – first, second, third (or more) – and may vote for just one candidate or rank only some of the candidates if they wish. Votes are tabulated to identify the candidates receiving the strongest support from the greatest number of voters; they are the winners.

## RAISES FOR HOME HEALTH-CARE WORKERS

■ The passage of Initiative 775 in 2001 enabled home-care workers to form a union and bargain collectively with the state. Last year legislators rejected a proposed contract that would a salary in-

crease of \$2.07 an hour spread over two years, and gave the workers a 75-cent raise instead (current wage now \$8.43 hourly). This session we will be asked to approve a revised agreement that includes a 50-cent raise for about 26,000 workers, makes them eligible for workers' compensation benefits, and allows them to join the state's Basic Health Plan. What would you do?

\_\_\_\_\_ Approve      \_\_\_\_\_ Reject  
If you would reject this agreement, why? \_\_\_\_\_

## PUBLIC SAFETY

■ The Department of Ecology reported 1,694 methamphetamine labs in Washington in 2002. In many of those labs, children were found. How should the Legislature handle this growing problem?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Make the manufacturing of meth a "strike" under the state's "Three Strikes" law.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Increase penalties, but do not make meth manufacturing a strike.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Current laws are working fine. No action is necessary.

**When you are finished with this survey, please cut it, fold it and mail it to me with the return mail panel showing. Thank you!**

### JOIN ME FEBRUARY 21 & FEBRUARY 28 FOR A TOWN HALL MEETING!

#### Saturday, Feb. 21

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	1:30 – 3 p.m.
<b>Eatonville Court House</b>	<b>Orting Multi-Purpose Room</b>
201 Center St. W.	202 Washington Ave. S. (next to library)

#### Saturday, Feb. 28

10 – 11:30 a.m.	1 – 2:30 p.m.
<b>Graham Library</b>	<b>Yelm Timberland Library</b>
9202 244th St E.	210 Prairie Park St. (second floor)

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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